walls and defetcs pertaining to seepage, slopes in wet areas, grinding of floors, flush door shutters, general finish etc. are sometimes reported and attended to.

Programme for rural drinking water supply

1705. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Scheme has formulated or a coordinating machinery has been set up to improve the performance and cost effectiveness of the on going programmes in the field of rural drinking water supply on a long term basis and;

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved a Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and Related Water Management'.

The Objective of the Technology Mission will be to improve the performance and cost effectivness of the on-going programmes in the field of rural drinking water supply so as to ensure the sustained availability of adequate quantity of drinking water of acceptable quality on a long term basis This will be done by providing low cost but practical and effective solutions to identified problems associated with the supply of safe drinking water in rural areas, through the application of all available scientific and technological inputs from various national laboratories and scientific organisation and by promoting better water management.

During the Seventh Plan period, the Mission proposes to take up pilot projects in 50 districts in the country to deal with specific problems such as brackishness, salinity, turbidity, scarcity, presence of excess iron, flouride and other toxic elements contamination by pathogenic organism problems of arid, semi-arid drought prone and hill areas etc. The aim is to develop an integrated and inter-disciplinary approach which can be replicated in other areas. The Mission would also promote related water management through augmentation of existing ground water sources with the help of micro-level ecological planning involving afforestation, soil and moisture conservation and also by adopting the technique of artificial recharge in areas where ground water has been depleted and by tapping the surface flow through water shed management. The concept of water budgeting for conjunctive use of water resources would be introduced and long range measures formulated for preventing indiscriminate uses of water.

Food in East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh

1706. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of life and cattle heads and damage to property due to the recent unprecedented floods in East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount of Central assistance sought by the Andhra Pradesh Government and the amount of Central assistance given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The details of damage caused by the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh including the districts of east and West Godavari are as under:—

(ii) Human lives lost	326
(ii) Cattle heads lost	17,388
(iii) Estimated value of damage of property	Rs. 1686.74 cr.